

**Christopher M. Thomas**  
**Biography**  
**(5/31/13)**

Christopher M. Thomas is employed by the Michigan Secretary of State as the Director of Elections and has served in this capacity since 1981. He administers the Michigan election law, campaign finance act and lobbyist disclosure law. He began his election administration career in 1974 in Washington, D.C. with the U.S. House of Representatives and the Federal Election Commission.

Chris earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from Michigan State University, received his Masters Degree in Urban Affairs from St. Louis University in St. Louis, MO, and graduated from Thomas Cooley Law School in Lansing. He is currently a member of the Michigan State Bar Association. Chris has been an Adjunct Professor at Thomas M. Cooley Law School since 2001 teaching election law.

Chris is a founding member of the National Association of State Election Directors (NASED) and was elected NASED's President in 1997. At the NASED Conference in January 2013, he became NASED's President for the second time. He served as Chair of the Board of Advisors to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission from 2006-2008. This Board was created by the Help America Vote Act to review guidelines and studies before they are issued by the Election Assistance Commission.

At the NASED Summer Conference in 2012 he was honored to receive NASED's Distinguished Service Award.

On May 21, 2013, he was appointed by President Obama to the Presidential Commission on Election Administration.